

1996

REVEREND CLERGY, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CITY
COUNCIL, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION,
LIBRARY TRUSTEES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND
CITIZENS OF PEABODY. IT IS A DISTINCT PRIVILEGE AND
HONOR FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TONIGHT AS YOUR MAYOR
AT THIS, THE 40TH INAUGURAL IN THE HISTORY OF OUR CITY.
THIS EVENING'S CEREMONY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER
TERM IN OFFICE FOR SOME AND FOR OTHERS A NEW BEGINNING.
IT IS ALSO A TIME FOR ALL OF US TO REFLECT ON WHERE WE
ARE AS A COMMUNITY, AND HOW WE CAN PROVIDE THE
LEADERSHIP THAT HELPS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR

ALL OUR CITIZENS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL

OF YOU TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER TO JUDY SELESNICK FOR

PROVIDING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST YEAR AS

YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT. CONGRATULATIONS ARE ALSO IN

ORDER FOR YOUR NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JOYCE SPILIOOTIS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE MANY COMPLEX

ISSUES WE WILL BE FACING.

AS WE PREPARE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THIS NEW TERM OF

OFFICE, I THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE TO REFLECT ON WHERE

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WE WERE, WHERE WE ARE, AND WHERE WE ARE HEADED AS A
COMMUNITY.

I BELIEVE GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE. IS THERE
ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT? CERTAINLY. THAT IMPROVEMENT
WILL ONLY COME WITH COOPERATION AND THE WILL TO PROVIDE
TRUE LEADERSHIP, THE COURAGE TO DEFINE THE ISSUES AND
MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION RATHER
THAN POLITICAL PRESSURE, EXPEDIENCY OR REACTING TO
POLLs.

RECENTLY I CAME ACROSS A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH
DEFINES EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP, AND THE QUOTE READS IN

PART, "... YOUR REPRESENTATIVE OWES YOU NOT HIS INDUSTRY

ONLY, BUT [ALSO] HIS JUDGEMENT. AND HE BETRAYS [YOU]

INSTEAD OF SERVING YOU IF HE SACRIFICES IT TO YOUR

OPINION." IT HAS BEEN THAT TYPE OF APPROACH THAT HAS

ALLOWED US TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TURN OUR

CITY'S FINANCES AROUND, BRINGING STABILITY AND STRENGTH

TO OUR COMMUNITY. THIS PAST YEAR, MOODY INVESTMENT

INC. UPGRADED THE CITY'S BOND RATING TO "AA1". ONLY

TWO OTHER COMMUNITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS HAVE THIS

RATING. THE RATING IS BASED ON FINANCES, MANAGEMENT

AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES, AS WELL AS BEING ABLE TO

SUSTAIN LONG TERM DEBT. MOODY'S CREDIT REPORT STATED,

AND I QUOTE, "... THE RATING REVISION FROM AA TO AA1

FOR PEABODY'S GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT RECOGNIZES THE

CITY'S VERY STRONG MANAGEMENT, SOLID FINANCIAL POSITION

AND DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY...". THE REPORT FURTHER

STATED, "...THE CITY'S STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION IS A

RESULT OF CAREFUL EXPENDITURE MONITORING COMBINED WITH

TAX BASE EXPANSION BUILT OVER TIME...". A LOT OF HARD

WORK HAS GONE INTO ACHIEVING THIS PRESTIGIOUS RATING.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THIS STANDARD

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AND PREVENT OURSELVES FROM GETTING INTO THE FINANCIAL

TROUBLES FACED BY SO MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES.

THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE AREAS OF

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE SEVERAL

BUSINESSES WHO HAVE BEGUN CONSTRUCTION OR ARE READY TO

BEGIN BUILDING IN THE JUBILEE DRIVE AREA. OVER 600,000

SQUARE FEET OF NEW PLANT SPACE WILL HELP BROADEN OUR

TAX BASE AND CREATE MORE JOBS FOR OUR CITIZENS.

WHILE TALKING ABOUT JOBS, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

OUR LATEST FIGURES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT ARE 4.2%. ONCE

AGAIN, WE ARE LOWER THAN THE STATE AND THE NATION.

THIS PAST YEAR, NEARLY \$2 MILLION DOLLARS WAS MADE
AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR REVOLVING LOAN FUND, LEVERAGING
IN EXCESS OF \$20 MILLION DOLLARS IN PRIVATE SECTOR
FUNDING.

THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT, WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY WITH OUR DOWNTOWN
2005 ACTION PLAN, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PRESERVE OUR
DOWNTOWN AS A Viable ECONOMIC CENTER.

THIS PAST YEAR, THE GEORGE PEABODY HOUSE CIVIC
CENTER WAS DESIGNATED AS A SATELLITE VISITOR CENTER AS
PART OF THE ESSEX HERITAGE TRAIL SYSTEM. THIS WILL

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ALLOW US TO PLAY AN INTEGRAL PART IN THE PROMOTION OF

THE HISTORY OF ESSEX COUNTY, AS WELL AS TAPPING INTO

THE TOURIST MARKET.

OUR HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM CONTINUES TO EXCEL. THIS PAST YEAR, WITH \$900,000 FROM STATE GRANTS

AND HOME FUNDS, WE WERE ABLE TO RENOVATE 105 HOUSING

UNITS WHICH PROVIDES SAFER AND IMPROVED LIVING

CONDITIONS FOR OUR CITIZENS. THIS BRINGS OUR TOTAL

OVER THE PAST DECADE TO 1600 HOUSING UNITS.

I AM PLEASED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE 41 LOANS TO FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS, MAKING HOMES AFFORDABLE TO

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FAMILIES THAT COULD NOT HAVE OTHERWISE PURCHASED THEM,

AND HELPING THEM ACHIEVE THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM OF

OWNING THEIR OWN HOME.

OUR STUDY TO CLEAN CRYSTAL LAKE IS NOW COMPLETE. A

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION WILL FOLLOW TO

RECLAIM CRYSTAL LAKE AND MAKE IT A VIABLE WATER BASED

RECREATIONAL FACILITY.

IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE THE PROPOSED GOLF COURSE A

REALITY, WE HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE RESULTS OF THE

FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE 18

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HOLE GOLF COURSE.

2. WE HAVE INITIATED NEGOTIATIONS FOR LAND

ACQUISITION.

3. WE APPLIED FOR A \$500,000 GRANT FROM THE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION SERVICES TO

HELP CONSTRUCT THE GOLF COURSE AND I AM

PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED

PRE-SELECTION APPROVAL FOR 1996 FUNDING.

IT IS MY HOPE TO PUT TOGETHER THE NECESSARY

RESOURCES TO SEEK COMPLETION OF THE GOLF COURSE.

THE DESIGN FOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN WILSON

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SQUARE AND THE ANDOVER STREET BRIDGE ARE CONTINUING.

IT IS MY HOPE TO HAVE A PLAN THAT WILL REDUCE ACCIDENTS

AND IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW WITH A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF

DISRUPTION DURING CONSTRUCTION.

OUR PLAN TO BUILD A PEABODY BIKEWAY FROM PEABODY

SQUARE TO MIDDLETON IS MOVING AHEAD. THE METROPOLITAN

AREA PLANNING COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE FEDERAL

HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION THAT THE CITY OF PEABODY BE

FUNDED AT \$1.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF

FY '96. IT APPEARS FUNDING IS A CERTAINTY. OVER THE

NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT WILL BE

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WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY
DEPARTMENT, PREPARING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PERMITTING PROCESS. THIS
PROJECT COULD BE A MAJOR RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TO
OUR COMMUNITY, FOR BOTH PASSIVE AND ACTIVE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CITIZENS OF ALL AGES.

WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR STATE FUNDED COMPUTER NEEDS
ASSESSMENT STUDY TO UPGRADE THE CITY'S COMPUTER
CAPABILITY. THE DATA PROCESSING MASTER PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEGUN AND WILL BE COMPLETED OVER A
THREE YEAR PERIOD OF TIME. THE PLAN WILL INCLUDE

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CHANGES TO OUR MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM,

ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE AUTOMATION NETWORK AND FUTURE

EXPANSION FOR A GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM.

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS MANY SCHOOL

IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. NOT ONLY HAVE WE MET

THE MANDATES OF THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT, WE HAVE

PREPARED OUR STUDENTS FOR THE CHALLENGES THEY WILL BE

FACING IN A VERY COMPETITIVE MARKET PLACE. WE, AS

PRUDENT MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, HAVE TO CONTINUE TO

ALLOCATE RESOURCES ON A WELL PLANNED AND PRIORITIZED

BASIS, KEEPING IN MIND THE CITY'S ABILITY TO SUSTAIN

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FUNDING OVER THE LONG TERM AS WELL AS WITHIN THE
ABILITY OF THE TAXPAYERS TO PAY FOR THESE EXPENSES.

I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF THE SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. OUR SYSTEM
HAS ADOPTED NEW MATH AND READING CURRICULUM. BOTH
PROGRAMS HAVE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS. THIS
PAST YEAR, OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BUDGET,
\$850,000 WAS APPROPRIATED FOR EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT.
APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 WAS ALLOCATED TO INTRODUCE THE
FIRST PHASE OF AN INSTRUCTION BASED TECHNOLOGY
INITIATIVE. THE BALANCE FUNDED THE RECONSTRUCTION OF

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THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE LAB, TEXTBOOKS, AND A NUMBER OF

OTHER EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS.

AS PROMISED IN MY LAST INAUGURAL, \$2 MILLION

DOLLARS WAS ALLOCATED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH

INCLUDED FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT, BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS,

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINI MALL ENCOMPASSING CULINARY

ARTS, FASHION MERCHANDISING, COSMETOLOGY AND BANKING AT

PEABODY VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL.

OUR TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO IS AMONG THE LOWEST IN

THE REGION, AND LAST YEAR WE DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE COUNSELORS. THERE HAS BEEN A

MULTITUDE OF OTHER CHANGES SUCH AS THE DARE PROGRAM,

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM, ESTABLISHMENT OF

THE AIR FORCE JR. ROTC PROGRAM AT PEABODY VETERANS

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE SELECTION OF PEABODY AS A

A TRAINING DISTRICT FOR THE "PARTNERSHIP FOR THE

ADVANCED LEARNING OF MATH AND SCIENCE" PROGRAM.

UNDER THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT, THERE IS A FORMULA

FOR EXPENDITURES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES TO ASSURE

SUFFICIENT FUNDING AND EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

THERE ARE TWO THRESHOLDS - ONE IS FOR NET MINIMUM

SPENDING AND THE SECOND IS THE NET FOUNDATION BUDGET

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WHICH ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE TO REACH BY THE YEAR 2000.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE SURPASSED BOTH

THRESHOLDS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE HAVE EXCEEDED THE

FOUNDATION LEVEL BY \$1.1 MILLION DOLLARS AND THAT

AMOUNT WILL PROBABLY BE MORE BEFORE THE END OF THIS

FISCAL YEAR.

BY JUNE 30, 1996, WE WILL HAVE INCREASED THE SCHOOL

BUDGET OVER THE LAST THREE FISCAL YEARS BY \$7 MILLION

DOLLARS. THIS IS EXCLUSIVE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$5 MILLION

DOLLARS SPENT OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS FOR CAPITAL

PROJECTS. I AM PLEASED WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS

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WITHOUT THE IMPOSITION OF USER FEES FOR ATHLETICS,

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, OR TRANSPORTATION, UNLIKE

MOST SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE AREA.

I WANT TO THANK THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, THE

SUPERINTENDENT, THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, THE TEACHERS

AND OTHER EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR HELP IN IMPROVING OUR

SCHOOL SYSTEM.

IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC SERVICES, MUCH HAS BEEN

ACCOMPLISHED. AMONG THESE HAS BEEN STREET AND SIDEWALK

RECONSTRUCTION, AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR

SNOW REMOVAL PURPOSES.

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THE MONITORING OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH ESSEX

SEWERAGE DISTRICT TREATMENT PLANT BY OUR STAFF HAS BEEN

AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A HIGH PRIORITY.

WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF STARTING TWO MAJOR PROJECTS

WHICH ARE CRITICAL TO OUR CITY'S FUTURE - ONE IS THE

NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT, THE SECOND IS A NEW PUBLIC

SERVICES FACILITY. THE COMBINED COST OF THESE TWO

PROGRAMS IS \$17 MILLION DOLLARS AND MUST BE FACTORED

INTO OUR LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING.

OUR PROGRAMS IN PARKS AND RECREATION CONTINUE TO

PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR OUR

CITIZENS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE COMPLETED THE

CONSTRUCTION OF THE KENNEDY SOCCER FIELDS, RADDIN PARK,

THE PVMHS ATHLETIC FIELDS, AND LIGHTING IS CURRENTLY

UNDERWAY FOR SEVERAL OF OUR PARKS.

IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC SAFETY, NEW EQUIPMENT AND

VEHICLES HAVE BEEN PURCHASED, ENHANCED 911 WAS

IMPLEMENTED, AND UPDATED COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY WAS ADDED

TO ALLOW US TO MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR IMPROVED

SERVICES TO OUR CITIZENS.

OUR SENIOR CENTER AND PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO BE

SECOND TO NONE, WITH A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

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AVAILABLE TO OUR SENIORS, INCLUDING A SOCIAL DAY CARE

CENTER THAT SERVES A CRITICAL NEED FOR OUR CITIZENS.

OUR CENTER HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A MODEL IN

MASSACHUSETTS.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE RECEIVED WORD THIS

PAST WEEK THAT PEABODY WAS SELECTED AS THE RECIPIENT OF

THE KENNETH E. PICKARD MUNICIPAL INNOVATION AWARD FOR

OUR "EMPLOYEE TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM". THIS

IS A STATEWIDE AWARD GIVEN BY THE MASSACHUSETTS

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION THROUGH A COMPETITIVE PROCESS. I

WANT TO CONGRATULATE PERSONNEL DIRECTOR CYNTHIA KING

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AND MEMBERS OF THE TQM STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THEIR
OUTSTANDING SUBMISSION.

THIS PAST YEAR WE CELEBRATED THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF GEORGE PEABODY. WE HAD A NUMBER OF
ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THIS
GREAT PHILANTHROPIST. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS PAST YEAR BOTH
EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS.

OUR FESTIVALS AND CONCERTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS WERE WELL RECEIVED AND ATTRACTED THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE.

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WE HAVE FULFILLED ALL OF THE COMMITMENTS WE MADE

TWO YEARS AGO. WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, BUT

THERE STILL REMAINS MUCH TO DO. OVER THE NEXT TWO

YEARS, AS WE CLOSE IN ON THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, LET

US DO SO WITH OUR GOAL BEING THAT PEABODY CONTINUES TO

BE A CITY THAT WE ARE ALL PROUD TO LIVE IN AND RAISE

OUR FAMILIES. LET US NOT BE SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS

QUO, BUT RATHER TO WORK HARDER TO RAISE THE CITY TO

EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS.

AS WE START THE NEW YEAR, LET ME REVIEW WITH YOU

SOME OF THE AREAS WE WILL BE ADDRESSING. KEEPING THE

CITY FINANCIALLY SOUND WILL BE A MAJOR GOAL FOR US.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE COST OF GOODS AND THE DELIVERY OF

SERVICES INCREASES EACH YEAR. IT WILL BE OUR JOB TO

CONTINUE TO DELIVER QUALITY SERVICES AND ACCOMPLISHING

IT WITHIN THE ABILITY OF OUR CITIZENS TO PAY FOR THEM.

IT WILL BE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS AS

TO THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES. WE CANNOT BE ALL

THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE. WE MUST PLAN AND PRIORITIZE OUR

SPENDING AS WELL AS CAREFULLY MONITORING EXPENDITURES.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE

SOUTH ESSEX SEWERAGE DISTRICT SECONDARY TREATMENT PLANT

TO AVOID ANY ADDITIONAL COST. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR

STRONG LOBBYING EFFORT WITH BOTH THE STATE AND FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT FOR RATE RELIEF TO EASE THE MAJOR FINANCIAL

IMPACT ON OUR CITIZENS.

CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN THIS SPRING ON OUR \$12

MILLION DOLLAR WATER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL

IMPROVE THE PRESSURE AND QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

THIS FALL WE WILL BE STARTING CONSTRUCTION ON OUR NEW

PUBLIC SERVICES FACILITY WHICH WILL CENTRALIZE A NUMBER

OF SERVICES AND ALLOW US TO BE MORE EFFICIENT. BOTH OF

THESE FACILITIES WILL PREPARE US FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST

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CENTURY AND ALSO SERVE FUTURE GENERATIONS .

IT IS MY HOPE TO ASSEMBLE THE NECESSARY LAND AND
START THE DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING FOR A
GOLF COURSE .

OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WE WILL BE IMPLEMENTING A
PLAN FOR THE DREDGING AND RESTORATION OF CRYSTAL LAKE .

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS WE HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT
SUCCESS IN MANAGING THE MCVANN-O'KEEFE SKATING RINK .

WE WILL BE RENEGOTIATING A CONTRACT THIS SPRING WITH
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS , ONE WE HOPE WILL BE
FOR A MUCH LONGER DURATION , OR IF POSSIBLE , AN OUTRIGHT

PURCHASE.

IN ORDER TO AVOID WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN OLDER

DOWNTOWNS IN COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE STATE, WE WILL BE

FINALIZING THE DOWNTOWN 2005 PLAN AND IMPLEMENTING THE

MOST URGENT ELEMENTS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, CERTAIN

IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED. EXPANSION OF DOWNTOWN PARKING

INCLUDING ACCESS AND VISIBILITY IS CRITICAL. FAÇADE

IMPROVEMENTS ON PROPERTIES ON FOSTER, WALNUT AND MAIN

STREETS ARE ALSO CRITICAL.

WE MUST ACTIVELY PURSUE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND

PHYSICAL UPGRADING OF THE BLEACHERY COMPLEX AT 119

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FOSTER STREET WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL OF ATTRACTING NEW
BUSINESS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

OVER THE NEXT YEAR WE WILL BE EXTENDING THE
UTILITIES ON JUBILEE DRIVE AS WELL AS SITE ASSEMBLY FOR
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DESIGNATED DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT. THIS WILL ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE PROGRESS
ALREADY MADE AT CENTENNIAL PARK.

LAST YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO HELP 41 FAMILIES PURCHASE
THEIR FIRST HOME THROUGH THE SOFT SECOND LOAN PROGRAM.
IT IS MY GOAL TO ASSIST 50 NEW FAMILIES THIS YEAR TO
REALIZE THE DREAM OF OWNING THEIR OWN HOME.

I WILL BE ASKING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT TO STUDY OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
AND TO RECOMMEND WAYS OF IMPROVING SERVICE ACROSS THE
CITY. THE STUDY WILL INCLUDE IMPROVING OUR CURRENT
SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE FEASIBILITY OF RESTORING THE MBTA
SERVICE WHICH WAS TERMINATED IN THE EARLY 1970'S BY A
REFERENDUM VOTE.

AS WE APPROACH THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, WE HAVE TO
SERIOUSLY ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF REGIONALIZATION. WE
HAVE TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS OF PAROCHIALISM AND
REALIZE OUR BOUNDARIES ARE AN ACT OF HISTORY THAT DATES

BACK OVER 350 YEARS. I INTEND TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE
ROLE TO ENCOURAGE OUR NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES TO JOIN
IN A PARTNERSHIP THAT WILL ALLOW US TO BE MORE
EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE IN THE DELIVERY OF
SERVICES.

TWO YEARS AGO, AT MY LAST INAUGURAL, I PLEDGED \$2
MILLION DOLLARS FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OUTSIDE
THE REGULAR SCHOOL BUDGET. LAST SPRING, WE COMMITTED
AN ADDITIONAL \$850,000 WHICH INCLUDED A NUMBER OF
INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM. I RECALL
VIVIDLY THE AGONY OF CUTTING THE SCHOOL BUDGET DURING

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PROPOSITION 2 1/2. OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TURN THINGS AROUND AND BRING STABILITY BOTH TO OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AND OUR CITY AT LARGE. THE LACK OF A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN AND PRIORITIZED APPROACH WOULD BE A MISTAKE. IT HAS BEEN MY PHILOSOPHY THAT A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IS FAR BETTER THAN TO GIVE ONE YEAR AND TAKE AWAY THE NEXT. AS I MADE A COMMITMENT TWO YEARS AGO FROM THIS VERY PODIUM TO PROVIDE \$2 MILLION DOLLARS TO BE PLACED IN A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, TONIGHT I MAKE ANOTHER PLEDGE ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN OF OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM. I WILL ASK THE

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SUPERINTENDENT TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ALL CAPITAL NEEDS ON A PRIORITIZED BASIS. THE PLAN WILL INCLUDE EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS, FURNITURE AND ALL OTHER CAPITAL NEEDS THAT WILL HELP TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM. THE EXPENDITURES WILL BE OF A CAPITAL NATURE ONLY AND NOT REOCCURRING. THIS WAY THERE WILL NOT BE AN IMPACT ON THE REGULAR SCHOOL BUDGET. AFTER THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REVIEW AND SATISFACTORY APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SUBMISSION, I WILL REVIEW THE PLAN AND SUBMIT TO THE CITY COUNCIL A BOND AUTHORIZATION

REQUEST. THE REQUEST WILL BE TO PLACE UP TO \$5 MILLION

DOLLARS IN A CAPITAL FUND FOR SCHOOL PURCHASES OVER THE

NEXT TWO YEARS. AS IN THE LAST BOND ISSUE, I WILL MAKE

AVAILABLE OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT AND ANY OTHER RESOURCES NECESSARY

FOR THE EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM.

THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE WILL HAVE

CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AS WELL

AS PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO

PUT POLICE OFFICERS ON THE STREET AND IN OUR

NEIGHBORHOODS, DOING THE KIND OF WORK THEY ARE BEST

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TRAINED TO DO.

I BELIEVE OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SUCH AS CONCERTS

AND FESTIVALS ARE ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF

LIFE OF OUR CITIZENS AND BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER.

THIS YEAR, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL BE COMMITTED BOTH

TO THE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS

AVAILABLE TO OUR CITIZENS.

TONIGHT I HAVE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF ISSUES.

ALTHOUGH THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LIST OF THINGS WE HAVE

TO DEAL WITH, IT IS A GOOD START FOR OUR NEW TERM OF

OFFICE. AS WE CLOSE THE BOOK ON THE PAST TWO YEARS AND

START A NEW TERM, I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK ALL THE LOCAL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS OUR STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, WHO HAVE HELPED IN THE CITY'S PROGRESS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WE WILL BE FACING MANY NEW CHALLENGES WHICH WILL REQUIRE WORKING TOGETHER.

TONIGHT I PLEDGE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND COOPERATION.

MY DOOR WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN TO DISCUSS WITH YOU WAYS TO MAKE OUR GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS.

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AS ELECTED OFFICIALS, WE MUST EACH ASK OURSELVES IN WHICH WAY CAN I BETTER SERVE MY COMMUNITY. IF WE ARE TRULY CONCERNED ABOUT DOING A BETTER JOB AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITY, THEN I BELIEVE THERE IS MORE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER THAN DIVIDES US AS A GOVERNMENT.

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT OUR CITY IS HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY MANY COMMUNITIES ACROSS THIS COMMONWEALTH. PEOPLE TALK ABOUT PEABODY TODAY FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS. THERE IS NO QUESTION THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, BUT THE LACK OF IMPROVEMENT OR THE

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DETERIORATION OF GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE CAUSED BY

EXTERNAL FORCES BUT RATHER BY INTERNAL TURMOIL AND

BICKERING.

IT IS WITH A DEEP SENSE OF PRIDE THAT I STAND

BEFORE YOU TONIGHT AS YOUR MAYOR. NEARLY 60 YEARS AGO,

I WAS BORN A STONES THROW FROM THIS BUILDING TO

IMMIGRANT PARENTS WHO HAD LEFT THEIR HOMELAND WHICH WAS

FILLED WITH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION AND HAD COME TO THIS

COUNTRY TO FIND PEACE AND FREEDOM AND A GOVERNMENT THAT

WAS TOLERANT AND CARING. THIS WAS AN EARLY LESSON FOR

ME AS TO THE IMPORTANCE THAT GOVERNMENT PLAYS ON THE

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DAY TO DAY LIVES OF PEOPLE. IT IS VERY SPECIAL THAT
YOU HAVE HONORED ME ONCE AGAIN BY PLACING YOUR TRUST IN
ME AND ALLOWING ME TO BE THE LEADER OF OUR COMMUNITY,
AS WELL AS THE LONGEST SERVING MAYOR IN THE HISTORY OF
THIS CITY. FOR THAT I AM ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL AND
ETERNALLY INDEBTED. IN RETURN, I PROMISE THE TYPE OF
LEADERSHIP THAT WILL BE STRONG BUT ALSO CARING, BOLD
BUT ALSO TOLERANT. LEADERSHIP AS I DEFINE IT DOES NOT
MEAN BEING ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE AND MAKING PROMISES
I CANNOT FULFILL. IT MEANS WE HAVE TO TELL PEOPLE THE
TRUTH AND YES, SOMETIMES THINGS THEY DO NOT WANT TO

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HEAR, BUT ARE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY.

I STAND BEFORE YOU TONIGHT TO TELL YOU I AM

PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THAT TYPE OF LEADERSHIP

AND TO RAISE OUR CITY TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS. I WANT

TO WISH ALL THE CITIZENS OF PEABODY A VERY HEALTHY AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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